

Message Text

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REF: A. KUALA LUMPUR 6631; B. USIA 29746; C. USIA 24595

1. FURTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH SHAMSUL INDICATE THAT HE AVAILABLE TO TRAVEL MARCH 1976. MUST RETURN APRIL.
2. AS MENTIONED REFTTEL A, SHAMSUL'S PRINCIPAL INTEREST IS OBSERVING INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO UNIVERSITY STUDIES. POST INTERESTED INVESTIGATING POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AMERICAN STUDIES AT UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA (UM) ON INTERDISCIPLINARY FOOTING RATHER THAN WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF TRADITIONAL DEPARTMENTS.
3. SHAMSUL DEFINITELY PLANS TO INSTITUTE SOUTHEAST ASIAN AREA STUDIES WITH INTERDISCIPLINARY FOCUS BEGINNING NEXT YEAR. INTERDISCIPLINARY AMERICAN STUDIES WOULD BE FARTHER OFF.
4. SHAMSUL WOULD BE INTERESTED OBSERVING INTERDISCIPLINARY SOUTHEAST ASIAN PROGRAMS AT SAME INSTITUTIONS WHERE HE OBSERVES AMERICAN STUDIES. POST HOPES THIS DUAL-PURPOSE PROGRAM WILL BE POSSIBLE. BELIEVE EMPHASIS ON INTER-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH WILL OFFER COMMON FOCUS.
5. SHAMSUL HAS INDICATED INTEREST IN VISITING FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS:
 - A. CORNELL - BECAUSE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY S.E. ASIAN AND AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAMS - WOULD ALSO LIKE VISIT MILTON

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BARNETT, FORMER ROCKEFELLER CONSULTANT IN MALAYSIA.

B. UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO - SHAMSUL HAS HEARD THAT UNIVERSITY HAS GOOD INTERDISCIPLINARY HUMANITIES PROGRAM.

6. POST SUGGESTS THAT SHAMSUL'S EXPRESSED INTERESTS BE COORDINATED WITH SCHEDULE OF UNIVERSITY CONSULTATIONS OUTLINED REFTEL C. POST REALIZED THAT SCOPE OF PROJECT SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT BECAUSE SHAMSUL ALSO INTERESTED INVESTIGATING INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO S.E. ASIAN AREA STUDIES. HOWEVER, WE FEEL THAT THIS DUAL EMPHASIS MAY IN FACT REINFORCE IMPACT THIS EXPLORATORY VISIT. IF SHAMSUL CAN OBSERVE STRONG INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS IN TWO AREAS OF INTEREST, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS WILL STRENGTHEN HIS HAND IN INTRODUCING NEW CONCEPT OF INTERDISCIPLINARY AMERICAN STUDIES TO UM.

7. MACEE ALREADY HAS TENTATIVELY AGREED WITH SHAMSUL BEGIN SENDING MALAYSIAN STUDENTS IN HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES WITH INTERDISCIPLINARY EMPHASIS IN 1976. WOULD LIKE USIA/CU HELP IN IDENTIFYING SUITABLE AMERICAN TO LAUNCH AMERICAN SIDE OF PROGRAM AT UM IN 1976 OR 1977.

8. POST SEES SLIGHTLY ALTERED FOCUS THIS PROPOSED VISIT AS ASSET. WE BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT DYNAMISM AND INTEGRITY WHICH SHAMSUL BRINGS TO OFFICE OF DEAN MAKE HIM IDEAL PERSON INTRODUCE IMPORTANT INNOVATIONS IN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAMMING AT MALAYSIA'S MOST PROMINENT UNIVERSITY.
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